

In fact, slicing and dicing operations in existence over ten years ago cannot be used for the new generation of integrated circuits. Applicants' invention was created because existing tools were inadequate for the task specified in claims 9 and 17, and, among the newer circuit designs, the QFN assemblies with thick copper layers are the most difficult ones to slice. See page 3, lines 14-16. Thus, Applicants have traversed the obviousness rejection of these claims over Corcoran.

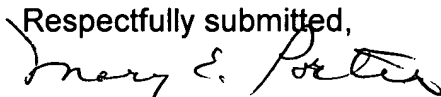
Objection to Claims 10-14, 19 and 21-22:

In view of the final rejection stage of the present application, Applicants have amended the objected to claims by rewriting them in independent form where appropriate, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and canceling the rejected base claims. Claims 19 and 22 have not been retained as they were essentially repetitive of amended claims 10 and 14, respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

For the reasons given above and in view of the amendments submitted herein, claims 1-3 and 5-29 satisfy the requirements of 35 USC Section 103(a), and Applicants respectfully request an allowance of the amended claims set forth on the attached pages.

Respectfully submitted,



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